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SUPPLEMENT TO MONOGRAPH 18

ON THE

WALTHAMSTOW TOKENS

BY

JOHN COXALL

ILLUSTRATED

WALTHAMSTOW ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY
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Notes and Corrigenda.

Since the completion of Monograph 18, the writer has received many communications respecting the British Copper Company and our local coinage, and his thanks are due to all who have furnished additional information.

Two further Vincit tokens have been traced, which probably completes the list of varieties of the Walthamstow Tokens.

NINETEENTH CENTURY TOKENS—(*Page 8, Monograph 18*).

With the exception of one at Glasgow, it is not certain that any nineteenth century copper tokens were issued as early as 1808, the earliest date known on them being 1811.

On the same page it was stated that copper "fourpenny" pieces were struck. This was a slip for "sixpenny" pieces, which appeared at Birmingham.

BRUTUS NO. 6 HALFPENNY—(*Page 16, Monograph 18*).

The reverse of mint copies, when viewed under a very powerful glass, shows that the stalk reaches the upper of the two acorns under trident. In most specimens, however, the acorn appears detached from the stalk, as previously stated.

1812 PENNY NO. 6—(*Page 23, Monograph 18*).

The Y of the word PENNY on the obverse does not quite touch the last W of WALTHAMSTOW.

THE BRITISH COPPER CO.—(*Page 9, Monograph 18*).

It must be made clear that Messrs. Williams, Foster & Co. purchased only the business of the British Copper Company, in 1832, from Henry Bath & Company, and did not acquire the latter Company, which was established in 1794, and still exists as Messrs. Henry Bath & Son, Ltd.



The Walthamstow Tokens.

DETAILS OF THE TOKENS—(Continued).

VINCIT HALFPENNY 12.

- Obverse.* Same die as Vincit 1 Halfpenny, but with flaws (a) and (b) only. No incuse impression or piece broken out of die.
- Reverse.* WREATH. 17 leaves left, 17 leaves right.
10 acorns left, 8 acorns right=18 acorns.
- TRIDENT. Right and left barbs touch leaves, centre barb almost touches.
- FLAW. Piece broken out of edge, outside wreath under shield.
- Edge.* Thread milled.

VINCIT HALFPENNY 13.

- Obverse.* Laurels point to O.
V points between ribbons.
Outer ribbon end pointed, inner not.
Large head.
Lettering askew in places, C of VINCIT too low; A of AMOR too far from M; PAT of PATRIÆ too far apart.
Figure 8 of date is reversed and too far from first 1. Second 1 is too high. Third 1 is letter "I" instead of figure "1."
- Reverse.* Same die as Vincit 7 Halfpenny.
- Edge.* Thread milled.

FURTHER ILLUSTRATIONS.

PATTERN PIECE.

- Obverse.* As 1813 Penny, but with date 1812.
- Reverse.* WREATH with 22 leaves on left, 20 leaves on right, and 12 acorns each side. Thread milled edge.

As mentioned on page 14 of Monograph 18, this piece was struck from dies engraved by P. Wyon, and was presented by him to Sir George Chetwynd. It was afterwards in the Norman collection, and is now in the possession of F. S. Cokayne, Esq. So far as known no further tokens were struck from the dies, so that this pattern piece is unique.

ERRORS.

1. This was also referred to on page 14 of Monograph 18, and is a mule, showing the obverse of Brutus 7 Halfpenny on one side and the obverse of Vincit 9 on the other. Edge thread milled. Also in the collection of Mr. F. S. Cokayne, and probably unique.
2. Brockage of a 1813 Penny 2 from the collection of Mr. W. Gilbert, F.R.N.S. Mr. Cokayne possesses a brockage of the 1812 Penny 1.
3. Brockage of the 1814 Halfpenny. In Mr. Cokayne's collection.
4. Vincit 5 Halfpenny double struck. In Mr. Cokayne's collection.

VINCIT HALFPENNY—continued.



12



13

PATTERN PIECE.



ERRORS.



1



2



3



4



ADDITIONAL NOTES.

THE WOODFORD TOKENS.

A carpenter, named William Brooks, was one of the Parish Constables at Woodford in 1794 and 1795. This possibly brought his name and craft to the notice of Denton, who showed both on the tokens he struck, dated 1796.

1812 PENNY NO. 2.

It appears probable that the reverse of this Penny was struck from the die of the No. 1 Penny after it had been re-engraved.

WILLIAMS, FOSTER & CO.

The Grenfell business established at the Middle and Upper Bank Works, near Swansea, about 1830, later became Pascoe, Grenfell & Sons, Limited.

Williams, Foster & Co. operated other copper works besides those at Landore and Morfa, and were associated in various enterprises with Vivian & Sons, Ltd., another large firm interested in copper. Eventually Williams, Foster & Co., Vivian & Sons, and Pascoe, Grenfell & Sons, amalgamated as the "British Copper Manufacturers, Ltd.," thus, with a slight alteration, preserving for 120 years the name of the British Copper Company, which first used the Walthamstow Mill for rolling copper in 1809.

COMPARATIVE SCARCITY OF THE TOKENS.

A batch of 582 tokens, obtained from many sources, contained the following number of each variety, viz.:—

BRUTUS HALFPENNY.

No. 1, forty-six. No. 2, nil. No. 3, eleven. No. 4, four. No. 5, twenty-one. No. 6, fifteen.
No. 7, three. No. 8, two.

MERCURY HALFPENNY.

No. 1, forty-two. No. 2, sixteen. No. 3, one. No. 4, six.

VINCIT HALFPENNY.

No. 1, four. No. 2, twenty-five. No. 3, seven. No. 4, nine. No. 5, four. No. 6, sixteen.
No. 7, fourteen. No. 8, nil. No. 9, eight. No. 10, eight. No. 11, nineteen. No. 12, two.
No. 13, nil.

1813 HALFPENNY.

No. 1, thirty-one. No. 2, seventeen. No. 3, one hundred and twenty-three.

1814 HALFPENNY. Two.

1812 PENNY.

No. 1, forty-eight. No. 2, nine. No. 3, plain edge, nine; milled edge, ten. No. 4, two.
No. 5, twenty-seven. No. 6, two. No. 7, one. No. 8, three.

1813 PENNY.

No. 1, one. No. 2, plain edge, one; milled edge, one. No. 3, one. No. 4, four. No. 5, plain edge, three; milled edge, one. No. 6, three.

This list, no doubt, gives a fair idea of the comparative scarcity of our tokens, and shows that the common varieties are the Brutus No. 1, Mercury No. 1, 1813 Halfpenny No. 3, and 1812 Penny No. 1. Among the scarce varieties are the Brutus Nos. 2 and 8, Mercury No. 3, Vincit Nos. 8 and 12, the 1812 Pennies Nos. 4, 6 and 7, and the 1813 Pennies Nos. 1, 2 and 3. The Vincit Halfpenny No. 13 is possibly unique, the only specimen known being in the collection of Mr. Lionel L. Fletcher, F.R.N.S.

In view of the singular manner in which most of the Walthamstow tokens show flaws in the dies, it seems likely that the scarcity of some varieties resulted from the dies breaking after being in use only a short period.

Many more halfpennies than pennies appear to have been minted, possibly due to the fact that five halfpennies equalled the weight of two pennies. A large issue of halfpennies instead of pennies would consequently mean a considerable saving in the cost.

Specimens in mint or very fine condition can be found of nearly every Walthamstow token except the 1813 Pennies, of which fine copies are almost unknown.

Although with reference to some tokens the word "common" is used above, it must be understood that this is but a comparative term, and that large numbers do not exist of any of our local coins.

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